Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SY-04 IO-14 SCA-01 M-02 A-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 (ISO)W

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R 071528Z AUG 74 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9517

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 9388

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ASEC PINS LE

SUBJECT: FATE OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR BANK OF AMERICA ATTACK

REF: STATE 169644

- 1. TWO SURVIVING CULPRITS IN LAST OCTOBER'S ATTACK ON BANK OF AMERICA HERE WERE TRIED AND SENTENCED BY LEBANESE MILITARY COURT ON MAR 9. ONE OF THEM, ADIL ABU ASSI, RECEIVED DEATH SENTENCE (BY FIRING SQUAD), AND THE OTHER, AMER FARROUKH, GOT FORCED LABOR FOR LIFE. WE WERE INFORMED BY LEBANESE OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME THAT A TWO-MONTH APPEAL PROCESS WOULD TAKE PLACE, FOLLOWED BY REVIEW BY FIVE-MAN HIGHER MILITARY TRIBUNAL. LATTER WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRES. FRANGIE ON WHETHER TO CARRY OUT THE SENTENCES OR AMEND THEM.
- 2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MILITARY TRIBUNAL REVIEW IS NOW IN PROCESS, BUT THAT TRIBUNAL IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE OCT.
- 3. COMMENT: WE SENSE SOME RELUCTANCE ON PART OF GOL CONFIDENTIAL

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SECURITY OFFICIALS TO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN AY-

THING OTHER THAN VAGUE GENERALITIES. THIS COULD STEM FROM THEIR EMBARRASSMENT OVER FACT THAT LEADER OF GANG WHICH CARRIED OUT BANK OF AMERICA ATTACK, AHMED SHIBBU, IS STILL AT LARGE--PROBABLY HOLED UP IN SOME NEARBY REFUGEE CAMP. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE CANNOT HELP WONDERING IF SHIBBU AND HIS FOLLOWERS--IN ADDITION TO BEING IMPLICATED IN SUBSEQUENT BOMB ATTACK ON REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER--MIGHT ALSO BE CONNECTED WITH MORE RECENT BOMB EPISODES AT KENNEDY CENTER AND AT PAN AMERICAN. WE NOTE THAT COVER-NAME, "REVOULTIONARY ARAB YOUTH ORGANIZATION" USED IN LATTER TWO INCIDENTS IS NOT TOO DISSIMILAR FROM COVER-NAME "LEBANESE SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION" USED BY SHIBBU GANG FOR BANK OF AMERICA AND RSC ATTACKS.

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